

**Remarks**

Reexamination of this application is respectfully requested. With entry of this amendment, claims 1-6 would be pending.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 1-6 in condition for allowance. Applicants submits that the proposed amendment of claim 1 does not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully point out that the Final Office Action by the Examiner presented some new arguments as to the application of the art against Applicants' invention. It is respectfully submitted that the entering of this Amendment would allow Applicants to reply to the final rejections and place the application in condition for allowance.

Finally, Applicants submit that the entry of this Amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 11-206100 (the "Japanese reference"); rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the Japanese reference in view of Newman et al. (U.S. Pat. No.

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4,542,311); and rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the Japanese reference in view of Bader (U.S. Pat. No. 5,763,965).

**Rejection of claims 1-3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by the Japanese reference. In order to properly anticipate Applicants' claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), each and every element of the claim in issue must be found, either expressly described or under principles of inherency, in a single prior art reference. See M.P.E.P. § 2131 (8<sup>th</sup> Ed., Aug. 2001), p. 2100-69. Furthermore, "[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." See id. Finally, "[t]he elements must be arranged as required by the claim." See id.

Applicant has proposed to amend claim 1 to further clarify the claim. Claim 1, as proposed to be amended, recites a linear motor drive apparatus comprising a fixed element, which has a guide mechanism, a movable element, which is guided by the guide mechanism and which can move along a prescribed reference plane, parallel rows of first magnets, which are mounted to the fixed element, and which are arrayed in parallel at both sides of the reference plane, and parallel rows of second magnets, which are mounted to the movable element, and which are arrayed in parallel at both sides of the reference plane, wherein the parallel rows of first magnets are plane-symmetry with respect to the reference plane, and the movable element has, at a part thereof crossing the reference plane, a steel plate parallel to the reference plane, the steel plate having narrowed end parts.

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The Japanese reference does not disclose at least a movable element that has, at a part thereof crossing a reference plane, a steel plate parallel to the reference plane, the steel plate having narrowed end parts as recited in claim 1. The Examiner alleged that the Japanese reference discloses "a steel plate 62 parallel to the reference plane and having a triangular shape as shown in figure 6." See Office Action, page 2. But, in the Japanese reference, 62 represents a cross-shaped core. See, for example, Fig. 6. Cross-shaped core 62 does not have any narrowed end part. See id. Moreover, pentagon-shaped iron core 63 has only one narrowed end part. See id. Nowhere does the Japanese reference teach a movable element that has, at a part thereof crossing a reference plane, a steel plate parallel to the reference plane, the steel plate having narrowed end parts as recited in claim 1. Since the Japanese reference fails to teach each and every one of the elements in the combination of claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that the Japanese reference does not anticipate claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 2, 3, and 5 depend on claim 1. For at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that the Japanese reference does not anticipate claims 2, 3, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

**Rejection of claims 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

The Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the Japanese reference in view of Newman. The Examiner rejected claim 6 under 35

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U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the Japanese reference in view of Bader.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the following reasons.

“Examiners are reminded that a dependent claim is directed to a combination including everything recited in the base claim and what is recited in the dependent claim. It is this combination that must be compared with the prior art, exactly as if it were present as one independent claim.” M.P.E.P. § 608.01(n)(III), page 600-77. Claims 4 and 6 are dependent on claim 1. As discussed above, claim 1 is patentable over the Japanese reference. Neither Newman nor Bader cures the deficiency of the Japanese reference. For example, assuming Newman and Bader are arguably combinable with the Japanese reference, neither Newman nor Bader teaches or suggests a movable element that has, at a part thereof crossing the reference plane, a steel plate parallel to a reference plane, the steel plate having narrowed end parts as recited in claim 1. Therefore, claims 4 and 6 are allowable at least for the reasons provided above with respect to claim 1 and also by virtue of their dependency on claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the claims 1-6.

To the extent any extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 is required to obtain entry of this reply, such extension is hereby respectfully requested. If there are any fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, which are not enclosed herewith, including any

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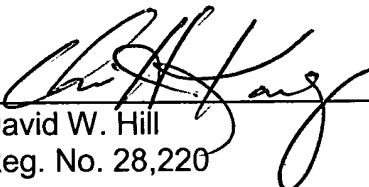
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fees required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.116, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 21, 2003

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**Amendments to the Claims**

1. (currently amended) A linear motor drive apparatus comprising:

a fixed element, which has a guide mechanism;

a movable element, which is guided by the guide mechanism and which can move along a prescribed reference plane;

parallel rows of first magnets, which are mounted to the fixed element, and which are arrayed in parallel at both sides of the reference plane; and

parallel rows of second magnets, which are mounted to the movable element, and which are arrayed in parallel at both sides of the reference plane, wherein

the parallel rows of first magnets are plane-symmetry with respect to the reference plane, and

the movable element has, at a part thereof crossing the reference plane, a steel plate parallel to the reference plane, the steel plate having narrowed end parts ~~a narrowing configuration~~.

2. (original) A linear motor drive apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the steel plate has a triangular shape.

3. (original) A linear motor drive apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the steel plate is provided so as to have planar symmetry with respect to both ends of the movable element along the direction of movement thereof.

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4. (original) A linear motor drive apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the row of first magnets comprises electromagnets, and wherein the row of second magnets comprises permanent magnets.

5. (original) A linear motor drive apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the row of first magnets comprises permanent magnets, and wherein the row of second magnets comprises electromagnets.

6. (original) A linear motor drive apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the guide mechanism is a pair of V-shaped grooves that have planar symmetry with respect to the reference plane.

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